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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 002180

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/20/2016

TAGS: PREL PGOV PINS IR TU

SUBJECT: TURKEY/IRAN: LARIJANI SEEKING INVITATION TO ANKARA

REF: A. ANKARA 2038

1B. ANKARA 2042

Classified By: DCM NANCY MCEDLOWNEY FOR REASONS 1.4 (B,D).

11. (C) We queried MFA South Asia Department Head Mural Ulku April 20 about press reports that Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani would visit Ankara on April 24. Ulku told us that no such visit was planned, but acknowledged that Iran had previously asked Turkey to receive Larijani and the GOT is considering this request.

12. (C) Ulku stressed that a Larijani visit will not happen "for the foreseeable future," but said the GOT could decide at some point to receive him, depending on conditions. He said that, in any such visit, Turkey would give the Iranians a "strong message" concerning their nuclear ambitions.

13. (C) Comment. This appears to be another Iranian attempt to engage Turkey in the nuclear dispute. The Iranian ambassador here has previously spread false reports that FM Gul would travel to Tehran. FM Gul recently assured DAS Bryza that Turkey fully supports U.S. diplomacy on the Iran issue and told a visiting staffdel that Turkey intends to work closely with us on the way forward (reftels). End Comment.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at  
<http://www.state.sgov/p/eur/ankara/>

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